

CHARACTERISTICS OF THOSE SERVED

Adults most likely to need protective services are often:

- Elderly, especially if living alone.
- Developmentally disabled or severely physically disabled.
- Without close relatives or friends willing or able to assist.
- Confused or depressed and not capable of caring for their own basic needs.
- Withdrawn from social activities and interactions.

DEVELOPING A CARING COMMUNITY

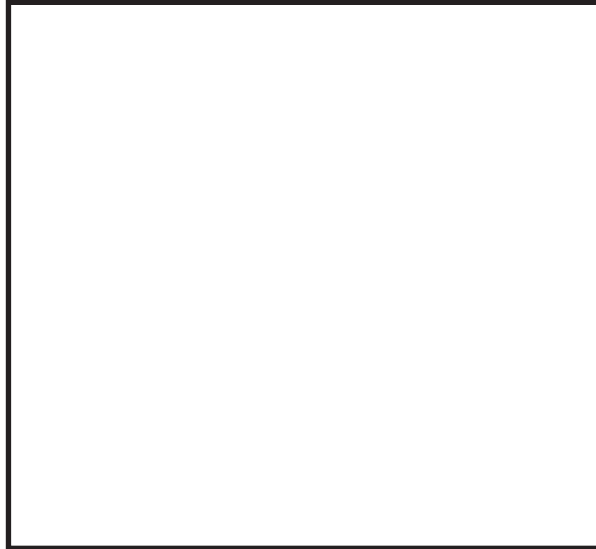
A caring community is made up of individuals who are aware of the needs of vulnerable adults. They accept the responsibility to notify the Department of Human Services when they find a person in need of protection.

Do you know of anyone who may need adult protective services? If so, contact the Department of Human Services. You do not have to give your name when reporting.

ELIGIBILITY

All persons requiring assistance are provided services based upon **need** for protective services.

To make a report or to get further information about the Adult Protective Services Program, contact your local Department of Human Services office listed below or look in the white pages of your local telephone directory.



A report may also be made by calling the Adult Protective Services Hotline 1-800-996-6228.

STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



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Previous edition may be used.



ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM



STATE OF MICHIGAN
Department of Human Services

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Department of Human Services

Not being able to deal with a threatening situation is scary to everyone. The aim of the Adult Protective Services Program is to assist those persons 18 years old or older who have been abused, neglected, or exploited and who are vulnerable and unable to take the necessary steps to correct their situation.

Abuse is harm or threatened harm to an adult's health or welfare caused by another person. An example of abuse is:

- A developmentally disabled woman who resides in the home of her father and is being beaten by him.

Neglect is harm to an adult's health or welfare caused by the inability of the adult to respond to a harmful situation (self-neglect) or the conduct of a person who assumes responsibility for a significant aspect of the adult's health or welfare. An example of neglect is:

- A physical disabled man is left in front of the TV all day without a meal or access to toilet facilities.

Exploitation is the misuse of an adult's funds, property, or personal dignity by another person. An example of exploitation:

- An elderly woman's adult son is using her money for his own needs without her knowledge or approval.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY

PA 519 of 1982 gives the Department of Human Services the responsibility to provide adult protective services to those who require this help. This law requires the Department of Human Services to "...commence an investigation to determine whether the person suspected of being abused, neglected, or exploited is an adult in need of protective services." Based upon the findings of the investigation, the agency is to "...make available to the adult the appropriate and least restrictive protective services... and take necessary action to safeguard and enhance the welfare of the adult, if possible."

PA 149 of 1994 establishes penalties for harm caused to a vulnerable adult by a caregiver or other person with authority over the adult. The act also establishes severe penalties for a caregiver or person with authority over a vulnerable adult who interferes with an Adult Protective Services (APS) investigation.

PA 222 of 2000 provides penalties for financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult. The act prohibits "...unjust enrichment...by an individual in a relationship of trust with a vulnerable adult."

The act further defines vulnerability – a condition of substantiating an APS complaint:

“ ‘Vulnerable adult’ means an individual age 18 or over who, because of age, developmental disability, mental illness, or disability, whether or not determined by a court to be an incapacitated individual in need of protection, lacks the cognitive skills required to manage his or her property.”

SERVICES PROVIDED FOR ADULTS

Services provided through the Adult Protective Services Program are varied. They respond to the array of problems experienced by adults in need of protection. The Adult Protective Services Program provides the following services:

- Protection
 - Protective services investigation.
 - Social protection.
 - Financial management.
 - Conservatorship/guardianship/civil commitment;
- Counseling;
- Education and training;
- Family planning;
- Health related;
- Home help;
- Homemaking;
- Housing;
- Information and referral;
- Money management;
- Volunteer services.

